

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING FARAH JOOMA

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farah Jooma on achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award. Receiving the Gold Award is a testament to Miss Jooma's leadership, citizenship, and service to her community.

For her Gold Award project, Farah Jooma worked with Parkland Hospital and researched alternatives more medical insurance. She created a brochure that she distributed to healthcare clinics throughout the Dallas Fort-Worth area. She also held seminars discussing ways of trying to improve medical insurance.

The Girl Scouts of America promotes a positive influence for young women of today. I am honored to represent Farah Jooma in earning the highest award bestowed in Girl Scouts. I commend her commitment and dedication for the betterment of her life, her community, and her country.

ALFERD WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alferd Williams, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Williams, a sharecropper's son, who never got the chance to go to school, is now learning to read. Alferd is an inspiration to his teacher and classmates, and a prime example of someone setting their mind to accomplish a goal and then achieving success.

In 2006, Alferd joined a first-grade class at Edison Elementary School, to fulfill a promise he made to his mother and himself. That promise was that he would learn how to read. Mr. Williams is now in his second year at Edison Elementary School, and plans to stay in Ms. Alesia Hamilton's first-grade class until he completes his GED.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Alferd Williams, who is a true inspiration for all that know him, and all that have had the opportunity to hear of his inspirational story. Mr. Williams is living proof that with faith and persistence, you can achieve any goal. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Williams in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE YVONNE BRAITHWAITE BURKE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Los Angeles County Supervisor

Chair Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, who is retiring this year after an exceptional fifty years in public service.

As an African American and a woman, Supervisor Burke has broken through professional barriers her entire career. She was the first African American woman elected to the California State Assembly, where she served from 1966 to 1972. She was the first African American woman from California elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she represented California's 37th Congressional District from 1972 to 1978. She was the first African American woman appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, the first woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus, and the first Member of Congress to give birth while in office. She was the first female and African American to serve on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

I had the pleasure of serving with Supervisor Burke in both the California State Assembly and the House of Representatives. When my wife Janet and I visited Washington the year I decided to run for Congress, Supervisor Burke, who had been elected just 2 years before, went out of her way to make us both feel welcome. Supervisor Burke and I served 4 years together in Congress, and it was my good fortune to be able to continue to work with her when she left to be a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. I have greatly valued our many years of friendship, the experience, wisdom, and grace she brings to every problem, and her strong commitment to public service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Supervisor Burke's extraordinary 50-year career and extensive record of accomplishments. Janet and I wish her and her family the very best for the future.

WIND FARMS IN THE WATERS OF THE GULF COAST

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Texas is now the number one wind energy state in the country, producing more power from wind than any other state. Texas is also the first state to allow wind energy production offshore, energy, which could not only power our homes and businesses, but also pay for the education of our children.

The Gulf Coast currently has unused oil equipment in its waters. Those structures now have a new purpose, as wind turbines utilize oil and gas platforms off the Texas-Louisiana coast in the first U.S. offshore wind energy farm. The shallow waters of the Gulf make economic sense for wind farms. Wind farms consist of turbines that harness clean energy and offer another option outside of natural gas. The coastline has a far-reaching continental shelf, in some areas extending 80 miles, while having water depths less than 150 feet. Texas, long a major player in the oil and gas industry, is now a major player in wind energy. In this region, the best wind for generating energy blows mid-day, when electricity demand is the highest. Therefore, the electricity generated from wind farms off the Texas coast will be highly valued by utility companies.

Wind Energy Systems Technology (WEST), conceived by Herman Schellstede and Harold Schoeffler, will be lining nearly 74,000 acres of water with wind farms, which includes part of my district, in the waters off of Jefferson County, on state owned land. Construction of the wind farms should begin in 2009. Once completed, the offshore wind farm will produce enough electricity to provide power to about 40,000 homes. By comparison, an equal amount of electricity would require about 20.7 million barrels of oil, or 6.5 tons of coal to produce. By not burning these fossil fuels to create this amount of energy, the wind farm will displace approximately 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide each year.

It is in our best interest to research and develop alternative energy sources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, in order to become more energy independent. With natural gas depleting, wind farms should become more abundant in the coming years, as wind power becomes more competitive and the technology more efficient. Wind is a clean energy resource with substantial environmental benefits and offers one of the lowest marginal costs of production. This renewable energy means renewable revenue. Some have reported that wind energy provides more jobs per dollar invested or per kilowatt-hour generated, than most conventional resource options. With total installed U.S. wind power capacity now over 16,800 megawatts or enough to serve the equivalent of 4.5 million average households, wind was the second largest source of new electrical capacity in the Nation, behind only natural gas, for the past 3 years.

Wind power is part of our country's sustainable energy solution, and I applaud WEST for their foresight and innovation.

TRIBUTE TO MUJES DE ECELENCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mujes de Ecelencia, one of the most prominent women's organizations in my congressional district, for embarking upon a remarkable educational campaign outreach on health care issues to women in Roma, Texas. The informational campaign outreach, which finished on April 18, 2008, is a mixture of private-public partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and agencies that all strive to bring awareness to important issues that affect women and their families.

Mujes de Ecelencia has consistently worked to provide the latest information about drug and alcohol treatment, family counseling, tobacco awareness, and other health care matters to women in south Texas since 2002. I applaud Mujes de Ecelencia for bringing together businesses, organizations, and local agencies in the informational campaign marketed towards women's health care issues, and for their continued work in advocating for women in south Texas.